



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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7 JANUARY 1966

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1. Vietnam

Shelepin and company were given full VIP treatment when they arrived in Hanoi today. Earlier, during a short stopover in Peking, the atmosphere was frosty.

The North Vietnamese premier, Pham Van Dong, made the major speech at the airport. He said that the visit was particularly welcome at a time when the US was using a "so-called peace offensive" to cover up escalation of the war. "In these conditions, the valuable support of the Soviet people strengthens our will to smash the American imperialist aggressors."

In reply, Shelepin said that "the friendship and cooperation of the two countries had grown stronger of late thanks to the reciprocal efforts" of both sides. He promised that the current visit will "contribute to the further development of friendly relations." He concluded by saying, "this is why we came here."

Ho Chi Minh received Shelepin shortly after the ceremonies ended.

2. North Vietnam

Intercepts indicate that North Vietnamese military units were given permission to resume daytime vehicular activity and "normal operations" between 27 and 31 December.

The lag in putting out this order--from four days to a week from the cessation of air attacks--may indicate that Hanoi was uncertain initially over US intentions. As late as 31 December, some units were being told that the "US might bomb us just at the time we are neglecting to be on the alert."

3. Soviet Union

Brezhnev left Moscow today by train at the head of a delegation to visit Mongolia. This is clearly the latest move in Moscow's campaign to counter Chinese influence in Asia. Brezhnev's delegation includes such high-level officials as Defense Minister Malinovsky, First Deputy Premier Mazurov, and Foreign Minister Gromyko.

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4. Indonesia

The Indonesians are also expanding their efforts to obtain foreign economic assistance.

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On the political front, there is now new talk of an early "political solution" of the present deadlock.

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5. India-Pakistan

The talks continue in Tashkent and officials back home are now showing some cautious feeling that something positive may emerge. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the talks may last until early next week and that some formula providing for continuing contacts may result.

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Kosygin is apparently working hard in his capacity as host and middleman. There are some suggestions that he may have prevented an early breakup by prevailing on Shastri not to stage a walk-out early in the meeting.

A ranking Pakistani Foreign Ministry officer told Ambassador McConaughy that he was very impressed with the genuineness of the Soviet effort. He said the Soviets were proceeding with great professional skill and tact.

6. Pakistan

Military assistance from Communist China appears to be moving very slowly. Only a trickle of materiel has arrived, despite the considerable expectations [REDACTED]

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This probably reflects Peking's growing disenchantment with Ayub and other moderates in Pakistan and its conclusion that a substantial Chinese investment in Pakistan does not at the moment promise to be worthwhile.

7. Cuba

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8. Dominican Republic

Garcia Godoy's action against three of the four top military officers and the military's countering show of force have raised tensions to a new peak. So far today it has been relatively quiet in Santo Domingo, but the climate is ominous.

The president gives every indication of determination to stand or fall on the issue. He is banking on US support and on his convictions, probably accurate, that no other Dominican civilian of any stature would agree to move into his shoes.

His decision to act now in balancing action against the principal former rebel leaders with moves against the military chiefs was undoubtedly influenced by the strong pressures from the entire political left.

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The military is giving at least the outward impression of complete unity in refusing to accept the presidential decision. Military leaders are obviously awaiting the reaction of the Inter-American Peace Force

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Garcia Godoy asked today for Inter-American military action to regain control of the government radio station which was seized by the Dominican military last night.

Ambassador Bunker is apparently running into trouble from Brazilian General Alvim, who seems to be resisting the use of Brazilian troops against the Dominican troops.

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9. Rhodesia

The cutback in the Rhodesian gasoline ration, announced in Salisbury yesterday, means that Rhodesians are now to receive no more gasoline than users in Zambia have been receiving. It has somewhat weakened Salisbury's repeated public claims that Zambians will suffer more from the current emergency than Rhodesians.

Word from Zambia is that the most critical period in the supply of petroleum products will be the next two weeks. There continue to be serious delays in the British-backed effort to bring the products overland through Tanzania. The US airlift now getting under way could spell the difference between a tolerable situation and disaster.

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